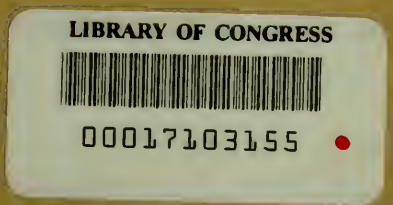
LC5771
.G4A3
1880



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

C5771
G4A3

VACATION COLONIES

FOR

SICKLY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, August 7, 1880.

The subject of recreative trips for the children of the city poor has received much public attention for several years, and has been noted in the annual reports of this Office. The report for 1872 also contained a short but very suggestive and valuable paper by that distinguished and benevolent physician, J. M. Toner, M. D., of Washington, D. C., respecting free camping grounds or parks, where poor children and their parents might be lodged during the warm weather.

This idea has been carried out in a somewhat different shape during the last few years in Switzerland and Germany, as will be seen from the annexed translation of Minister von Puttkamer's order of May 26, 1880, and the accompanying report on vacation colonies, condensed from the Centralblatt für die gesammte Unterrichts-Verwaltung in Preussen for June and July, 1880.

JOHN EATON,
Commissioner.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1880.

LC5771
.G4k3

VACATION COLONIES FOR SICKLY PUPILS.

BERLIN, *May* 26, 1880.

The vacation colonies for poor and delicate pupils established within the last few years by different larger cities have proved so beneficial, both as regards the physical improvement of the children and the educational influence exerted, that a further development of them is urgently desired. This, however, can not be accomplished by the school administration in an official way, since there are no funds at its disposal for the purpose; a successful development can only be expected from the initiative of private associations. But these associations cannot succeed in all cases without the aid of the royal departmental government, especially in cases where the coöperation of teachers is needed in selecting and accompanying the pupils. In many cases the advice and assistance of technical members of the departmental government may be desirable.

I forward herewith five copies of a report which, besides other details, gives especial information concerning the financial side of the question, and I direct the departmental government to further every movement that may be inaugurated in favor of the vacation colonies.

The minister of worship and public instruction,

VON PUTTKAMER.

To the Departmental and Provincial Governments of the Kingdom.

VACATION COLONIES.

The first step towards the establishment of vacation colonies for poor sickly pupils was made by Pastor Bion, who, after having been transferred from Trogen, Canton Appenzell, to Zürich, was struck by the languid and sickly looks of many pupils. He at once decided to give them relief. After having collected the necessary means, he was enabled, in July, 1876, to send 34 boys and 30 girls, in charge of 5 male and several female teachers, and in the following year 39 boys and 55 girls, in charge of 5 male and 8 female teachers, for 14 days, into the country in the vicinity of Trogen.

Reports as to the success of these colonies led the sanitary councillor, Dr. Varrentrapp, at Frankfort-on-the-Main, to visit them. The impression which the colonies made on him induced him to imitate them at home; and so, in the year 1878, a committee was organized for this purpose at Frankfort. Of the 173 boys who applied to be admitted, the committee, aided by two physicians, selected the 97 who appeared to be the weakest. Of these 97 children, 93 were between the ages of 9 and 14 years, two were 8 years old, one 15, and one 17. They were divided into 8 groups, each of which was placed in charge of a teacher. The children left the city July 2, and returned July 25. The total expenses amounted to 5,373 marks 30 pfennige (1 mark = 23 8 cents), or 55 marks 39 pfennige for each child (or $13.18).

The children were all greatly improved in health on their return.

In 1879, 241 boys and 164 girls applied for admission. Of these numbers, 85 boys and 48 girls were sent into the country, where they remained 25 days. The expenses amounted to 7,478 marks 50 pfennige, or 56 marks 30 pfennige ($13.40) for every child.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 001 710 315 5

The city of Dresden also organized a committee last year thousand four hundred marks were collected, and 36 boys a the country. The results were excellent.

At Stuttgart, vacation colonies were organized by a committee under Dr. Albert Sigl. In 1879, 55 children were sent into the country from July 18 to August 11. The amount of money collected for this purpose was 3,720 marks.

Finally, the city of Vienna must be mentioned. In 1879, 20 boys were sent to a country place at Weissenbach.

This year (1880) the city of Berlin is going to join the movement. The local committee has for president the minister of state, Dr. Falk.